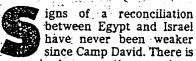


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Encouraging Mideast cooperation through scientific research

By Henry A. Waxman



diplomatic impasse.

Not far below this discouraging by our own actions.

Few efforts in U.S. foreign aid

Rep. Henry A. Waxman, D-Los Angeles, is the original sponsor of the Middle East Regional Cooperation Program.

have worked as well as the Mideast between Egypt and Israel problems facing both countries.

ambassador in Tel Aviv. Today, major projects - in aquaculture, breakthroughs.

not only can exist, but does. Ironitwo countries to produce a high-from each other's work. thousand people and 3 million head each other. of livestock. They have now com-

Regional Cooperation Program, has yielded tangible gains. But peace requires a process of humani- are passed down through generawhich funds joint research by these advances are not what is most zation and understanding of how tions. Security in armaments, by igns of a reconciliation Egyptian and Israeli scientists into striking about this program. Most much their humanity — their es- contrast, lasts only until their hardimportantly, Egyptians and Israelis, sential problems, desires and ware is outmoded. While using only 0.1 percent of - blood enemies for 30 years after dreams - are shared. The collabosince Camp David. There is annual U.S. aid to Egypt and Israel, the founding of the state of Israel ration made possible by our aid no trade between these nations, this program has succeeded beyond - have accomplished these things demonstrates exactly that, to the

even a 600-yard strip of land at the infectious diseases and dry land erate where the needs and abilities lights that common humanity for Red Sea port of Taba creates a agriculture have produced of the two countries coincide, to all to see. ensure that all projects entail an This gives such aid large advan-Working together, scientists equal partnership. The result is that tages over traditional military aid. surface, however, is tangible evi- from Israel and Egypt have, for about 1,000 scientists from both Clearly, it does not eliminate the dence that peaceful cooperation example, cross-bred fish from their nations have directly benefitted need for weapons. Weapons are a

cally, however, the U.S. program protein specimen that grows to ... Countless personal relationships case - the outbreak of hostilities. that sponsors it is now threatened market size faster than before, of trust and respect now span the But aid for cooperation helps build Medical researchers working to Sinai Desert. We hope that these a better case, By building familiargether quelled an outbreak of the bonds, as they grow deeper and ity, it gives each side more confideadly, mosquito-borne, Rift Valley more numerous, will help change dence in its estimation of the Fever, which in 1982 killed several the way the nations interact with others, lessening the need to guard

> In order to wage effective war, . The impact of such aid is not pletely driven it from the region. each side must dehumanize the only more deep seated, but longer

Clearly, scientific cooperation other. In the same way, lasting lasting The attitudes it influences States. A combination of congresslittle tourism, and no Egyptian all of our hopes. Each one of its together. participants and to the whole They have chosen areas to coop-world. Cooperative research high-

> form of insurance against the worst against the unknown.

eled so far has not been easy. All along, participants have had to contend with skepticism and even planned to study ways to fight fefal open opposition to it in their own malnutrition, will have to be countries. Israelis and Egyptians shelved. agree that the only country they both trust to guide them is the imperil the only cooperative work United States.

when Egyptians, Israelis and Amer-bilateral aid. icans working on all the major U.S.sponsored projects meet in Washington. Their purpose will be to jointly assess what has been done so far and set in agenda for the future.

Even while they meet, however, that future is weakened not by Egypt or Israel, but by the United sides, not undermine them.

sional and State Department decisions has cut regional cooperation program by almost 50 percent this year. That means the continuity of The road this program has trav- ongoing projects, so vital to scientific research, is threatened. It also means new projects, like one that

These cuts are bad policy. They in the whole U.S. aid program, This week will see an unprece- work which costs a tiny fraction of dented milestone on that road what we give the two countries in

> And it comes at a critical time for Mideast peace. Several moderate Arab states expressed interest in joining the regional cooperation program quietly and unofficially. Now is the time to encourage the progressive elements of the Iwo